

**ABSTRACT**

10 A method for controlling the order of datagrams, the  
datagrams being processed by at least one processing  
engine 110a, 110b, 110c, the at least one processing  
engine having at least one input port and at least one  
output port, wherein each datagram or group of datagrams  
has a ticket associated therewith, the ticket being used  
to control the order of the datagram or group of  
datagrams at the at least one input port of the  
processing engine 110a, 110b, 110c and at the at least  
15 one output port of the processing engine 110a, 110b,  
110c.

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